

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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P 181645Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3508

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15254

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. STATE 242979 AUTHORIZED TRANSIT VISA FOR SOVIET
AMBASSADOR TO GUYANA, VLADIMIR KOTENEV. THE 21 DAYS ENDS
OCTOBER 24 BUT WE HAVE BEEN GETTING CRESCENDO OF MFA
CALLS ASKING US TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN VIEW OF FACT
THAT HE IS AMBASSADOR. MFA MAY TRY AN END RUN BY
HAVING EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ASK YOU TO INSTRUCT US TO ISSUE.
WE HOPE YOU CAN RESIST THEM SINCE OUR 21-DAY TRANSIT RULE
HAS DEFINITELY HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT AS LEVERAGE. THE
SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TALKING SINCE JULY ABOUT RENEWING THE
CONSULAR TALKS AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY REASON
THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IS THEIR USUAL PROBLEM
OF GETTING INTER-AGENCY CLEARANCE FOR THEIR PROPOSED
PACKAGE.

2. DURING EARLY PART OF SUMMER OF '78 DCM, ADMIN.
COUNS, ADMIN. OFF., SUPERVISORY GSO AND ONE OTHER GSO
ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART MOSCOW WITHIN A FEW WEEKS
OF EACH OTHER. THE RESULTING LOSS OF CONTINUITY OF
ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGEMENT, UPDK AND NEW CONSTRUCTION
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EXPERIENCE MAY HAMPER THE ABILITY OF INCOMING OFFICERS
WITH ONGOING PROJECTS. JOE HULINGS HAS OFFERED TO
EXTEND TOUR UNTIL SEPT. 78 TO PROVIDE SOME DEGREE OF
CARRYOVER IN ADMIN. AND GSO OPERATIONS. AS THIS WOULD
PUT HIM SIGNIFICANTLY OUT OF NORMAL ROTATION CYCLE, HE
REQUESTS THAT HE BE GIVEN MODIFIED UNIVERSITY TRAINING
SUCH AS HARVARD PMD 14-WEEK PROGRAM OR SIMILAR

PROGRAM IN U.S. OR EUROPE WITH DELAYED HOME LEAVE. IF UNIVERSITY TRAINING OR SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE NOT AVAILABLE, HE WOULD OPT FOR NORMAL ROTATION IN JULY 78.

3. COULD YOU GIVE LEGAL OR WHOEVER ANOTHER PUSH ON REPLYING TO MOSCOW 12384 (SHORT TERM LEASES)? WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR AN ANSWER FOR TWO MONTHS.

4. RE YOUNG VISIT, AMBASSADOR DID NOT AGREE TO NOV. 15 DATE, BUT ONLY DISCOURAGED A VISIT AT AN EARLIER TIME AND PROMISED TO GIVE THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUNG MEETING WITH KEY OFFICIALS DEALING WITH AFRICA AROUND NOV. 15 (SINCE YOUNG WILL AGAIN BE ABROAD AT THAT TIME). AMBASSADOR SENT YOUNG A MESSAGE TODAY SAYING THAT AN APPROPRIATE INTERLOCUTOR IS UNLIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME: MALIK IS UNLIKELY TO BE HELPFUL, THE DIVISION CHIEFS HAVE NO POLICY-MAKING AUTHORITY, AND KUZNETSOV HAS NOT BEEN REPLACED YET. THE AMBASSADOR THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT YOUNG POSTPONE VISIT UNTIL KUZNETSOV'S SUCCESSOR IS IN PLACE, AND IN THE MEANTIME TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH TROYANOVSKY IN NEW YORK. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT DELEGATION FROM AFRICAN INSTITUTE WILL PROBABLY BE VISITING U.S. LATER IN YEAR, AND IT WILL BE USEFUL IF YOUNG COULD RECEIVE THEM. (THEY SHOULD ALSO BE RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT, OF COURSE.)

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5. REGARDING HANDLING OF SOVIET POUCHES BY USCUSTOMS AT DULLES, PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE USCUSTOMS PROCEDURES UNTIL WE MAKE EFFORT TO GET SOVIETS TO CONFORM TO THEM HERE. WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT SOVIETS MUST BRING THEIR PRACTICES IN LINE WITH OURS, OR ELSE OUR PROCEDURES WILL BE CHANGES TO MIRROR THOSE AT SHEREMETYEVO.
TOON

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